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Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 USSS-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01
PRS-01 SS-20 AID-28 CCO-00 FBO-01 NIC-01 O-03 OC-06
OPR-02 PER-02 SCA-01 SY-03 CU-05 SCS-04 RSR-01 /132 W
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O P 282123Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8296
INFO AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY
CINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1904

CINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: KIDNAPPINGS: SITREP AUGUST 28, 1800 HOURS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1877

1. FOLLOWING UP ON LEADS DEVELOPED IN INTERROGATION IF IMPRISONED MLN MEMBERS, POLICE YESTERDAY (AUG 27) FOUND IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS OF DAN MITRIONE AND OTHER PAPERS HIDDEN IN PLUMBING OF MONTEVIDEO HOUSE WHERE MLN LEADERS SENDIC AND BIDEGAIN CAPTURED AUG 7. AMONG THE MITRIONE DOCUMENTS WERE MARYLAND AND INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENSES, ID CARD ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CARD AND FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATION CARD. ALSO FOUND WAS PAPER WITH THREE MONTEVIDEO ADDRESSES: ONE WAS OF APARTMENT BUILDING SOMETIMES USED FOR TEMPORARY LODGINGS BY NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL; ANOTHER WAS HOME OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISOR MARTINEZ (MARTINEZ HAS MOVED AS SAFETY PRECAUTION); AND THIRD WAS HOME OF FORMER AID DIRECTOR STEWART WHICH NOW OCCUPIED BY FAMILY OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF ICM (ICM INFORMED).

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Montevideo 1904 8/28/70

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2. GROUP OF PRESUMED TUPAMAROS ATTEMPTED AMBUSH JUDGE JOSE PEDRO PURPURA AS HE RETURNED TO HIS APARTMENT AT 2315 HOURS LAST NIGHT. PURPURA AND FRIEND ACCOMPANYING HIM ESCAPED UNINJURED AFTER SIX SHOTS WERE FIRED INTO BUILDING FROM SLOWLY PASSING CAR AS THEY WAITED FOR ELEVATOR. PURPURA REPORTED HE HAD SEEN WEAPON BEFORE SHOTS FIRED AND HAD DUCKED INTO ALCOVE BEHIND ELEVATOR SHAFT. JUDGE PURPURA HAS BEEN OBJECT OF MLN THREATS FOR SOME TIME AND HIS EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY SUPREME COURT AFTER THE NOW BANNED, RADICAL LEFTIST "DE FRENTE" ACCUSED HIM OF IRREGULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SPYING FOR CIA. SEE MONTEVIDEO'S A-034 OF FEBRUARY 18 FOR DETAILS.

3. MILITARY POLICE PATROL LAST NIGHT AT 2100 SPOTTED STOLEN VEHICLE WHICH FIRED UPON THEM WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO STOP IT. VEHICLE PURSUED BY RADIO PATROL UNIT AND CRASHED INTO BUILDING AFTER DRIVER WOUNDED BY POLICE GUNFIRE. THREE OCCUPANTS OF STOLEN VEHICLE DISARMED BY POLICE AND TAKEN TO MILITARY HOSPITAL WHERE THEY BEING TREATED FOR INJURIES. POLICE THUS FAR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE MAKE POSITIVE DETERMINATION WHETHER THEY MLN MEMBERS OR JUST COMMON CRIMINALS.

4. SITUATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS CONTINUES TENSE. YESTERDAY FIVE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS CLOSED DUE TO DISTURBANCES AND CLASSES PARTIALLY DISRUPTED IN MOST OTHERS. ONLY THREE WERE REPORTED TO BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY CALLED SITUATION ONE OF "DECLARED WAR" AND PROMISED TO DEAL WITH IT FIRMLY. HE SUSPENDED OR FIRED ABOUT 50 TEACHERS FOR UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY AND THREATENED TO EXTEND SCHOOL YEAR UNLESS MINIMUM NUMBER OF CLASS DAYS REQUIRED BY LAW MET. DISTURBANCES CONTINUED THIS MORNING AND ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CLOSED AT MID-DAY. SECONDARY COUNCIL NOW MEETING AND WILL DECIDE THIS EVENING WHETHER OR NOT TO SUSPEND ALL CLASSES INDEFINITELY.

5. DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT 5 OF POLICE DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE JUSTO RODRIGUEZ MOROY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT YESTERDAY, BUT REFUSED TO DETAIL HIS REASONS. PRESS SPECULATES HE RETIRING DUE TO DIFFERENCES WITH HIS SUPERIORS. HOWEVER, RODRIGUEZ IS RATHER LACKLUSTER POLICE OFFICIAL WHOSE LACK OF VIGOR HAS CREATED MORALE PROBLEMS AMONG HIS SUBORDINATES.
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